

A-44143



C O U N T Y B O R O U G H O F H A S T I N G S

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for 1941

G.R. BRUCE, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
and
School Medical Officer.

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P R E F A C E

Health Department,
44, Wellington Square,
HASTINGS.

JULY, 1942.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, AND TO THE ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report of the Health Department for 1941, the third during the war, much curtailed again in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health, although all the usual statistical tables have been prepared in readiness for any future health survey.

The public health services, particularly in the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical branches were gradually restored in 1941, as the report shows, practically to a pre-war level.

The crude death rate 20.3 per 1,000 (if corrected by the existing factor of correction, 14.21) is admittedly high, but so is our proportion of the elderly and invalid class.

The birth rate, 13.3 per 1,000 shows a slight rise from 11.4 in 1940. The infantile mortality rate, 34.2 per 1,000 births, as compared with 39.8 in 1940 and the national rate of 71 in the large towns in 1941, continued to be favourable. The maternal mortality, 4.7 per 1,000 births, was somewhat higher than the national rate. The tuberculosis death rate 1.2 per 1,000, as compared with .88 in 1940, shows, as in many other districts, a sharp rise. This is, no doubt, as in the last war, due to causes associated with the existing war, and all practicable precautionary measures are being taken in accordance with the means available through the anti-tuberculosis scheme.

There was no important outbreak of any infectious disease in 1941. In fact the incidence of common notifiable diseases was probably the lightest on record, for example, a total of 6 cases of diphtheria, 14 cases of scarlet fever, for the whole year, as compared with an average expectation of 30 to 40 cases of diphtheria and about 100 cases of scarlet fever. The expected continuance of cerebro-spinal fever (spotted fever) did not materialise, as only two local cases were notified.

The health department continued to act as a focus for the organisation and administration of the Civil Defence Casualty Services, the Medical Officer of Health acting also as the local agent of the Ministry of Health in connection with the three local emergency casualty hospitals.

The total personnel of the Casualty Services, part-time and full-time, is about 300 - in the three hospitals about 400.

The Casualty Services include:-

1. The First Aid Parties.
2. The Ambulance Service.
3. The Mobile First Aid Post.
4. The First Aid Posts and Public Cleansing Centres.
5. The Casualty Bureau.
6. The Emergency Mortuary Service.

The three emergency hospitals, the Royal East Sussex, the Buchanan and the Municipal are each closely associated with their own First Aid Post and Public Cleansing Centre.

All the various calls on the Casualty Services, both hospitals and Civil Defence, were adequately met throughout the year.

I beg to thank the Council, the Chairmen and members of the various committees for their continued support and acknowledge with much gratitude the good and loyal work of my staff in these very difficult days.

I have the honour to remain,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G. R. BRUCE.

Medical Officer of Health.

2. CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Committee - Alderman Dr. Jameson.
 Sub Sanatorium etc. Committee - Alderman Dr. Jameson.
 Education Committee - Alderman Dymond.
 Children's Care Sub-Committee - Councillor Banks.
 Mental Deficiency Committee - Councillor Cavey.
 Maternity and Child Welfare Committee - Councillor Mrs. Farnfield.
 Housing and Improvements Committee - Councillor Thorpe.
 Public Assistance and Sub-Committee - Alderman Burden.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

See list as fully set out in report of 1938. The following alterations in staff are recorded in 1941.

REMARKS	NAME OF OFFICER	OFFICE HELD
Seconded to R.A.M.C.	GRANT, K.J. M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Deputy School Medical Officer.
	HOBBS, Miss H.A.	Tuberculosis Health Visitor.
	BRADLEY, F.G.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
Resigned.	DAWE, Miss D.	Health Visitor and School Nurse.
	HEATH, T.E.	Junior Clerk, Health Department.
	HARVEY, Miss E.M.	Clerk, School Medical Service.
	KNIGHT, C.L. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M. & H.	Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Assistant School Medical Officer.
Appointed.	PICKETT, H.H. L.D.S.R.C.S.	Temporary Dental Surgeon.
	FOOTNER, Miss E.E.	Clerk, School Medical Service.
	ALDER, J.	Junior Clerk, Health Department.

3. SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1941.

Birth Rate, 1941, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	13.7
✕ Death Rate, 1941, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - crude	20.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
No. 29 - Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 - Other Puerperal causes.	2	4.7

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	34.2
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32.3
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	52.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	119
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)	1

✕ According to existing factor of correction .67, the corrected death rate would be 14.21.

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

(1) Deaths.

Crude death rate	20.3
If corrected by factor for correction		14.21

Throughout the year the number of elderly people, invalids and infirm, remaining in the town, was high, a definite factor in any consideration of the death statistics.

(2) Births.

The birth rate was 13.3 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 11.3 in 1940.

(3) Main causes of deaths.

(a) Circulatory diseases.

The total deaths from these causes, under various headings, amounted to 50.6 per cent of the total deaths.

(b) Cancer.

The total deaths were 119 as compared with 159 in 1939.

In accordance with Circular 2062 of the Ministry of Health, the special regional scheme for dealing with cancer cases on a comprehensive basis has for the present been postponed. Specialised treatment, only available in the London or Sector Hospitals, etc. is still being obtained by direct application to the hospitals or through the Regional Hospital Officer.

(c) Respiratory diseases.

Including influenza, but not including pulmonary tuberculosis, the total deaths from respiratory complaints were 72, as compared with 136 in 1940. The incidence of influenza, with 8 deaths, was light.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following table summarises the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases during 1941.

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	6	Nil
Erysipelas	16	10	Nil
Scarlet Fever	14	12	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	19	3	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	Nil	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	60	32	38
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	11	2	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	16	1	4
Influenzal Pneumonia	3	Nil	Nil
Measles	15	6	Nil
Whooping Cough	15	Nil	Nil

No cases of the following notifiable infectious diseases were reported - Small-pox, cholera, plague, typhus fever, enteric fever, relapsing or continued fever, poliomyelitis, acute poli-encephalitis, encephalitis lethargica, malaria, dysentery or trench fever.

REMARKS.

The common infectious diseases were conspicuous in 1941 by their comparative absence in Hastings - the total of 6 cases of diphtheria, 14 of scarlet fever, and an entire absence of typhoid and paratyphoid fever, constituting by far the lowest figures during recent years.

out The diphtheria immunisation campaign was continued steadily through the year, A.P.T. being used on the lines and dosages now recommended by the Ministry of Health - .3 c.c. and .5 c.c. Altogether 605 children were immunised in 1941, a number slightly greater than the total number of children born.

The incidence of cerebro-spinal fever remained relatively high throughout the country, so that the two cases notified were much below expectation.

Isolation Hospital.

There was no alteration in the available accommodation, viz.

{ Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, 70 beds
{ (10 emergency beds available in addition).
(Smallpox Hospital, Brede - 20 beds.

The total admissions for 1941 were low - 134, and these included 54 cases from the Rural Districts of Battle and Rye, one case from Bexhill Municipal Borough, and 24 cases from the various Services.

Pending a permanent agreement, a temporary arrangement was made with the Borough of Bexhill, whereby that Authority closed its small isolation hospital, and sent all their usual infectious cases to the Borough Sanatorium.

The policy of accepting all types of infectious cases, both notifiable and non-notifiable, was maintained with considerable advantage.

In view of the closure of the Public Cleansing and Disinfecting Station, it was necessary to continue the use of the Sanatorium for this purpose, a spare ward and bathroom being utilised. This service has been of particular value in the treatment of scabies cases, and with the modern benzyl-benzoate treatment good results have been achieved.

Smallpox Vaccination Returns 1940-1941.

Births	759
Successful Primary Vaccinations. ..	212
Conscientious Objectors	348
Percentage of births vaccinated. ..	27.9

Report on Public Health Bacteriological Work.

This work was carried out in the laboratory of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, under Dr. P. Lazarus Barlow, Pathologist, to the Hospital, the following being a summary for 1941:

Source of Specimens	Nature of Specimens	No.
A. General Practitioners, Borough Sanatorium, Medical Officer of Health	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	80
	Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	191
	Widal Examinations for Typhoid Group	4
	Miscellaneous	159
B. School Medical Service	Throat Swabs for Diphtheria etc.	2
C. Tuberculosis Dispensary	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	47
	Miscellaneous	15
D. Municipal Hospital	Miscellaneous	196
Total Specimens examined		694

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN- Supplies are kept at the Health Department and at Police Stations, and issued on request to the medical practitioners of the town.

6. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC, ROYAL EAST SUSSEX HOSPITAL.

The incidence for Hastings was, syphilis 3 new cases as compared with 9 in 1940, gonorrhoea 6 new cases as compared with 9 in 1940. These figures are extremely low as compared with those of the early years of the Venereal Diseases Clinic, particularly

after the last war 1914-1918. All the facilities of the clinic were fully available for the military, naval and air force units, and, in addition, social work was fully maintained.

7. TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) Register.

At the end of 1941, the tuberculosis register contained 542 names:-

Males, 254, Females 179, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Males 44, Females 65, suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

(b) Notifications, 1941.

Notifications are shown in the following table:-

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths of cases notified			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	5	-	-	-	4	-
5 - 10 "	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 20 "	5	3	-	1	3	-	-	-
20 - 25 "	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	12	5	-	1	1	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	9	3	1	2	2	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	11	1	-	1	5	-	-	1
55 - 65 "	6	4	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 upwards	2	3	-	2	1	3	-	-
Totals	48	21	7	9	15	4	4	2
Grand Totals	85				25			

(c) Mortality.

The death rate of 1.2 per 1,000 showed a very definite rise over the figure for 1940, i.e. .88 per 1,000. This may be due partly to a real rise in the death rate, or may be influenced by the considerable number of invalids left in the town in proportion to the population. It is a fact, however, that tuberculosis, particularly the pulmonary form in young adults, is already showing a small but definite rise in incidence and mortality, in various parts of the country, no doubt as a result of war conditions.

(d) Tuberculosis Dispensary etc. at the Royal East Sussex Hospital.

The work, diagnosis, observation, sorting of cases for sanatorium, examination of contacts, x-ray and sputum examinations,

general treatment and continued supervision, was fully maintained; the total attendances were 623.

(e) Institutional Treatment.

In spite of various difficulties, it was possible to arrange institutional treatment as follows, under the Authority's scheme.

Darvell Hall Sanatorium	45 cases.
Royal East Sussex Hospital.	4 "
Municipal Hospital	1 case
Total ..	<u>50 cases</u>

In addition, patients already in residence were maintained at the Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey, the Papworth Village Settlement, and the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital. The Municipal Hospital was available for chronic and advanced cases, and as required, for cases under observation.

(f) Tuberculosis Care Committee.

This committee continued to function exactly as in former years, and maintained its grants of extra nourishment, milk and eggs, financial help, gifts of clothing, etc. to patients, and, if necessary, their dependents during sanatorium treatment.

In view of the increase in the incidence and death rate from tuberculosis, already commented upon, the work of this committee is more than ever useful. The food substances provided by the committee are those specially rich in disease preventing and resisting qualities.

(g) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 72.

No action was taken in 1941.

8. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

(1) Vital Statistics.

(a) Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality, in accordance with the formula of the Registrar-General was 34.2 per 1,000 births, a figure comparing favourably with our own mortality both before and during the war, and with the national figure of 71 for the large towns in 1941. Four-fifths of these deaths occurred at birth or during the first month of life due to prematurity, debility, malnutrition, etc. causes operating before, at or immediately after birth.

(b) Maternal Mortality.

Two deaths occurred, with a maternal mortality of 4.7 per 1,000 births. The particulars on the death

certificates were:-

No. 1. Acute anaemia of pregnancy.
Degeneration of liver.

No. 2. Acute heart failure during confinement.

All the special services, in spite of local difficulties, including ante natal and post natal clinics, consultants for difficult labour, pathological facilities etc. were fully available.

(2) Inspection of Midwives.

(a) No. of midwives on register..	10
No. of visits	19
Midwives' notifications.	98
Other official notifications.	10
Births notified by midwives..	304

The results of inspection and the average standard of work were very satisfactory.

(b) Midwives Act, 1936. Domiciliary Midwifery.

	<u>District Nursing Association</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	
	<u>Midwives</u>	<u>Midwife</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Cases conducted ..	204	44	248
2. Post Natal Visits ..	4082	772	4854
3. Ante Natal Visits ..	952	339	1291

This service by the midwives of the District Nursing Association and the Municipal Midwife was fully maintained.

(c) Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926.

All the existing arrangements continued, e.g. hospital accommodation, home nursing, consultants, bacteriological and general investigations etc. A summary of the cases was as follows:-

Delayed and difficult labour	4
Miscarriage	3
Abortion	2
Breast Absorption	2
Miscellaneous	8
Total ..	19

(3) Work of the Health Visitors.

	<u>Home Visits</u>
First visits	738
Second or further visits	5414
Infectious Disease	20
Infant Protection	86
Total ..	6258

(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Total attendances were as follows:-

Infant Welfare Centres	4284
Ante Natal Clinics	485
Medical Consultations.	2605

(5) Contraceptive Clinic for Married Women.
Treatment only for medical conditions.

New cases	12
Old cases	5
							<hr/>
Total							17
							<hr/>

(6) Distribution of Milk, Nutritive Foods etc.

The National Scheme for the distribution of milk to expectant and nursing mothers, free or at half price, viz. one pint of fluid milk per day or the equivalent in national dried milk, was in force during 1941, and under the local branch of the Ministry of Food worked very smoothly. The scheme for the national distribution of cod liver oil and fruit juices came into force in mid summer and was largely operated through the infant welfare centres, the Health Visitors, the regular voluntary workers and others who came forward, carrying out the whole of the work.

These two schemes are important factors in maintaining the health standards of mothers and infants during this difficult war period.

(7) Dental Treatment.

Children under school age at Royal	
East Sussex and Buchanan Hospitals	35
Expectant and Nursing Mothers at	
Royal East Sussex Hospital	5

(8) Orthopaedic and Light Treatment (see special note).

(9) Treatment of Toddlers.

All facilities at School Clinics for examination and treatment are available.

(10) Anti-Diphtheritic Inoculation.

(see note on infectious diseases).

(11) General Note on Maternity and Child Welfare Work in 1941.

Various modifications in the normal arrangements were continued throughout 1941 in view of the reduction in the population, and also of staff.

The Ante Natal Clinics at Halton and Park View were resumed during the year. Ante Natal Clinics were also available at the Municipal Hospital where the amount of maternity work was fully maintained, and at the District Nursing Association Clinic in High Street.

As a result of the pressure on other clinics, and the gradual return of population, the infant welfare centres were re-opened in November 1941 at Hollington, and the west end of the town, the gas cleansing centres being used very successfully for the purpose.

Soon after, it was decided to re-open the Park View, Halton and Central Welfares as independent clinics.

All the other normal services, e.g. dental treatment for children under school age and expectant and nursing mothers; orthopaedic and light treatment for children; hospital beds for cases of difficult labour, complicated ante natal cases and puerperal pyrexia have been available.

Home visiting was fully maintained by the Health Visitors whose excellent work, with a reduced staff, under trying conditions, is fully recognised.

It has been generally agreed by workers at the Infant Welfare Centres during the war, that the health and fitness of the infants have been of a high standard, as regards regular increase in weight, general appearance and vigour; and that mothercraft in its broadest sense has improved all round. Various factors have, no doubt, contributed to this, particularly the great interest of the Government in infant welfare through propaganda, wireless, and the institution of the scheme for the distribution of milk, cod liver oil and fruit juices.

9. MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The total number of mental defectives on the books of the Local Authority was 154 as compared with 175 in 1940. Of these 55 are in institutions, 46 under guardianship, 40 under statutory supervision, 13 under friendly supervision.

During 1941 a considerable number of mental defectives, who had evacuated, returned home with their relatives and guardians.

The Occupation Centre for lower grade cases remained closed during the year. The Supervisor has continued her class at the Municipal Hospital for pupils in the hospital and for a few selected defectives living near the Municipal Hospital. Special attention has, however, been given to home teaching in all other cases suitable for this purpose. This service has been much appreciated.

The Athelstan Road Open Air School will be adapted and re-opened as an all day Occupation Centre when conditions permit.

The Mental Health Worker has continued to carry out home supervision of children certified for attendance at the Special School, who did not evacuate with the Special School.

She also co-operates with the weekly clinic for nervous disorders at the Royal East Sussex Hospital. The number of new cases was 84, and the total visits by patients was 393 in 1941.

Mental Health Visitor - Summary of Work.

Home visits - cases under Guardianship	229
" " Supervision	90
" " Education Committee ..	55
Miscellaneous visits	139
Total	<u>513</u>
Escort	8 occasions.
Clinic for Nervous Disorders	38 sessions.
Municipal Hospital Occupation Centre	64 sessions.

10. ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME 1941.

All the usual facilities were available throughout the year for children under and of school age, and for cases of tuberculosis at all ages, including -

(a) Diagnostic Clinic and Supervision - Royal East Sussex Hospital.

(b) Treatment - Exercises - Appliances - X-Ray - Light Treatment - Royal East Sussex Hospital.

(c) In-patient treatment - Operations for short period stay - Royal East Sussex Hospital.

(d) Prolonged institutional treatment with education - Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey.

With the gradual return of school children, the numbers in attendance at the Orthopaedic Clinic gradually increased throughout the year.

Cases attending the Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital on December 31st, 1941.

(a) School Medical Service	47 cases
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare.	13 "
(c) Tuberculosis	5 "

<u>New Cases 1941.</u>	<u>Orthopaedic</u>	<u>Sun Ray</u>
(a) School Medical Service	8	Nil
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	10	Nil
(c) Tuberculosis	1	Nil
	<u>Total</u>	<u>19</u>

Total Attendances, 1941.

Orthopaedic	838
Sun Ray	Nil

Cases receiving residential treatment at Chailey, December 1941.

Tuberculosis	3
Other Conditions.	4

The after care of orthopaedic cases by the School Medical Officer and the Health Visitors and School Nurses is a special measure in order to prevent relapse; the diagnosis of early postural defects before they become completely established is of equal importance.

11. GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) Local Acts, Orders, Byelaws, Adoptive Acts.

No additions or amendments were reported in 1941.

(2) Public Health Propaganda.

A considerable amount of health propaganda work has been carried out during the year, e.g. on war dietary, diphtheria immunisation, hygiene in the black-out and in the shelter by the Health Visitors, the Infant Welfare and School Clinics; also through the First Aid Posts and the main public shelter.

(3) Registration of Nursing Homes.

As a result of voluntary evacuation and reduction of population, several of the nursing homes have evacuated. Inspections and supervision by the Medical Officer of Health and his deputy have been fully maintained. It was not necessary to take any action during the year.

Total Nursing Homes registered	..	25
Beds available	..	Maternity .. 55
	..	Others.. 179
	<u>Total</u>	<u>234</u>

(4) Water Supply.

All water in domestic use is adequately chlorinated.

Bacteriological Analysis, 16/12/41.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agra at

37°C: in 1 day	0
" in 2 days	2
20°C in 3 days	3

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)

Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli.. .. .

Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes).. .. .

Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) E. V. SUCKLING.

(5) Baths Establishments (Swimming and Medical).

These remained closed as a temporary measure.

(6) Drainage and Sewerage.

The important new sewerage scheme has been suspended during the war. A considerable amount of inspection and repair work continued to be carried out.

(7) Scavenging.

Collection and disposal by means of controlled tipping at Pebsham Farm are carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer. The Health Department co-ordinates, particularly in replacement of defective dust-bins and in the investigation and remedying of any nuisances.

(8) Sanitary Inspection of District.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Summary of Statistics 1941.

The details of table are omitted.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports:-

"During the year there was a gradual but perceptible increase in the number of persons returning to the district and the occupied houses increased in number accordingly.

With regard to housing repairs, the difficulties as to repairs, materials etc. referred to in my previous report continue, but the Department was nevertheless able to obtain a reasonable standard of repair in all necessary cases".

(9) Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply of District.

Retail Purveyors of Milk on Register, 1941	..	106
Wholesale Traders or Producers, 1941	14
Producers of "Accredited" Milk, 1941	5
Purveyors of "Tuberculin Tested", "Accredited", or "Pasteurised" Milk, 1941	9
Pasteuriser's Licences to sell milk as "pasteurised"	5
Supplementary Licences, 1941	1
Samples for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli		4
Samples under Milk (Special Designations) Order, viz.	19
Tuberculin Tested5 samples all satisfactory.	
Accredited8 samples, 1 sample not satisfactory.	
Pasteurised6 samples, 2 samples not satisfactory.	

The unsatisfactory accredited milk sample was followed up at producer's premises, all subsequent samples for the year proving satisfactory.

With regard to the unsatisfactory pasteurised milk samples, one licensee only was concerned. The necessary investigations were made with satisfactory results.

Of the 5 samples of raw milk taken, all proved negative to the test for tuberculosis. One sample was taken in a case of suspected mastitis, milk being stopped pending recovery of cow concerned.

(b) Meat Inspection.

Government controlled slaughtering in one slaughterhouse was continued during the greater part of the year. The improvements requested by the Medical Officer of Health were completed at the end of the year.

The meat inspection service performed by the Council's staff covered an area comprising the County Borough of Hastings, the Borough of Bexhill and the Rural District of Battle, and this has caused a considerable increase of work (as shown by the following table).

<u>Carcases Inspected.</u>					
	<u>Cattle</u> (excluding cows)	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
1939	534	228	829	3,763	3,024
1940	1,962	1,296	1,450	10,222	3,234
1941	1,659	784	1,266	7,333	3,097

Practically all animals killed were examined at or soon after slaughtering under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations by a Sanitary Inspector, and appropriate action taken as regards carcasses condemned in part or in whole, the figures being as follows:-

Percentage of cattle, whole or part carcasses, affected with tuberculosis	20.79%
Percentage of cows, whole or part carcasses, affected with tuberculosis	50.12%
Percentage of pigs, whole or part carcasses, affected with tuberculosis	3.81%

- (c) Shops Acts, Inspection of Food Stuffs, Restaurants, etc.
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, etc. 1852-1933.
Merchandise Marks Act, 1887-1926.

The tables dealing with sundry food stuffs and fish condemned, also giving details of all the work carried out under the above named Acts are omitted.

The number of shops on the register was considerably reduced during the year, particularly those businesses conducted as restaurants and cafes etc. Owing to various restrictions on public lighting etc. the majority of shops closed well before the statutory closing times and no complaints were received. The number of shops inspected was 46, re-visited 89, total 135 visits. 61 contraventions were noted and notices served. With notices outstanding, 86 defects were remedied, all by informal notices.

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts, 20 inspections were made.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1887-1926.

No. of Inspections	Contraventions found	Informal Notices		Outstanding
		Served	Complied with	
46	12	12	12	Nil

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

During the year 142 samples were taken and submitted to the Borough Analyst at the Laboratory, Hastings, with the following results:-

Milk. 48 samples taken, 43 genuine, 5 below the legal standard, as follows:-

<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken.</u>
(a) Fat 2.90%: Solids not Fat 8.62% 3.3% deficient in Fat.	Followed up by formal sample which was genuine.
(b) Fat 3.01%: Solids not Fat 8.29% 2.5% deficient in Fat.	do.
(c) Fat 2.96%: Solids not Fat 8.43% Slightly below standard, but passed as not adulterated.	do.
(d) Fat 4.03%: Solids not Fat 8.15% 4% deficient in solids not Fat. Below standard but not adulterated.	do.
(e) Fat 3.49%: Solids not Fat 8.27% 2.2% deficient in solids not Fat. Below standard but not adulterated.	do.

As regards samples of other foods and drugs, the following was adulterated:-

1 sample Seidlitz. Powder. Excess of 11.3 grams weight.
Sample followed up.

(10) Factories, Workshops, Work Places.

Inspection of Factories, etc.	9 visits
Written Notices.. .. .	2
Defects found	15
Defects remedied.	15
Defects referred to H.M. Inspector ..	Nil

(11) Camping Sites.

These have been closed until the end of the war.

(12) Disinfestation of Houses and Other Premises.

Council Houses	3
Other Houses	13

(13) Disinfecting and Cleansing Station, etc.

The public Disinfecting and Cleansing Station remained closed, the work of disinfection being carried out at the Disinfecting Stations of the Borough Sanatorium and Municipal Hospital. The cleansing of persons suffering from scabies or verminous conditions has also been carried out mainly at the Borough Sanatorium, although help has also been given through the Municipal Hospital. The temporary scheme has worked very satisfactorily.

As a new Disinfecting and Cleansing Station was urgently required before the war, the question of associating this work with the Borough Sanatorium after the war should be carefully explored.

Articles disinfected.. .. .	19,027
Number of individuals cleansed for vermin	4
Number of individuals cleansed for scabies	239
Sets of clothing disinfected	243
Premises disinfected.. .. .	181

(14) Report on Common Lodging Houses, 1941.

The two registered common lodging houses in the Borough are kept under close supervision by the sanitary inspector.

Both houses were free from notifiable infectious diseases during the year and were kept in accordance with the regulations.

(15) Housing.

Routine house to house inspection has been suspended for the time being. On receipt of any complaint with regard to the condition of a house or as a result of routine or special district supervision, all necessary inspections are carried out (416 in 1941) and action taken in the usual way. The housing statistical tables for 1941 are omitted in detail.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

HOSPITAL POLICY - MEDICAL ASPECTS.

The Emergency Medical Service - Ministry of Health.

No action was taken in 1941 with regard to the eventual transfer of the Municipal Hospital under the Local Government Act, 1929, from a Poor Law Institution to a General Hospital under the Public Health or Poor Law.

The Municipal Hospital, along with the two voluntary hospitals, the Royal East Sussex and the Buchanan, is a Class 1A hospital under the Emergency Hospital Service of the Ministry of Health. Altogether 400 beds are available in the three hospitals for casualty purposes, of which 180 are allotted to the Municipal Hospital.

The normal functions of the Municipal Hospital were fully maintained and in fact, of the present 380 beds, 200 are assumed to be utilised for chronic cases, maternity and children, the remaining 180 being available for acute and war casualty work.

During 1941 the number of beds occupied at the Municipal Hospital fluctuated, although there was a tendency to increase as certain chronic patients or invalids who could not be evacuated or could not be treated at home, were admitted from time to time.

The number of patients in the maternity unit at the Municipal Hospital showed a decrease from 249 to 155 as the result of the reduction in the population. There was, however, a definite tendency to increase towards the end of 1941.

13. METEOROLOGY.

The tables have been prepared by Mr. A. Simmonds, the Borough Meteorologist, and are available for reference. The comparative sunshine figures for 1941 have not been issued.

Temperature.

Maximum	55.3°	Minimum	46.2°
Normal	55.4°	Normal	44.5°
Absolute maximum 85°			
Absolute minimum 20°			
Earth temperature at 1 ft.	..	51.7°	
Earth temperature at 4 ft.	..	52.6°	

Miscellaneous.

Rainfall 0.46 below the normal
 Snow fell on 6 occasions.
 Ground frost on 79 occasions.
 Wind at gale force - Nil.
 Warmest day July 8th - temperature 85°
 Warmest night July 26th - temperature 63°
 Coldest days Jan. 6th, 7th - temperature 28°
 Coldest nights Feb. 4th, 5th - temperature 20°
 Relative humidity - 82%
 Prevailing winds, S.W. N.W.

14. SUMMARY OF PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (a) Laboratory facilities. - (see special section).
- (b) Ambulance facilities - The service both for infectious and non-infectious cases is adequate for the district.
 (see report for 1930).
- (c) Nursing in the home - See special section - Maternity and Child Welfare. (see also report for 1930).
- (d) Clinic and Treatment Centres. - (see special section).
 (see report for 1930).

- (e) Hospitals - Public and Voluntary - (See special section).
- (f) Medical Services transferred from late Board of Guardians - (see special section).
- (g) Mental Deficiency - (see special section).
- (h) Maternity and Child Welfare Services - (see special section).
- (i) Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children - (see report for 1930).
- (j) Prevention of Blindness.

The Corporation gives a substantial grant to the voluntary Association for the Blind, which is carrying out an ever increasing most admirable and beneficent work, e.g. maintenance of subsistence allowances up to 22/6d. per week for each blind person, obtaining and keeping suitable work, general and special treatment in local hospitals and national institutions.

By a declaration under the Local Government Act, 1929, the voluntary committee now deals with blind persons and sighted "dependents" requiring out-relief from the Public Assistance Committee.

The Public Health Committee has also authorised the honorary medical officer, Dr. Lowe, to complete the special medical certificate of the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health in respect of all new cases.

- (k) Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1922.

The amount of flock is comparatively small in amount, clean and used in remaking mattresses and general upholstery. The premises are all in a satisfactory condition and under the regular supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

